

(e) *Retrospective adjustment.* A PHA may apply a one-time retrospective adjustment to its Allowable Expense Level to compensate for the inadequacy of the inflation factors used in the PFS in the Federal fiscal years 1977 through 1981. This adjustment has the effect of increasing the non-utility portion of the Allowable Expense Level to a level that would have resulted if the proper percentages derived from the combined inflation factor had been used in those years. This adjustment is to be applied to the HUD approved Allowable Expense Level Per Unit Month (PUM) amount for PHA fiscal years beginning January 1, 1981, April 1, 1981, July 1, 1981, or October 1, 1981. Even though the adjustment is termed retrospective, it does not provide additional operating subsidy eligibility for PHA fiscal years before those beginning January 1, 1982. This adjustment shall be applied as follows:

(1) *A PHA:* (i) In operation during the PHA fiscal year beginning January 1, 1977, April 1, 1977, July 1, 1977, or October 1, 1977; or (ii) that started operation after these fiscal years but before the PHA fiscal year of January 1, 1982, April 1, 1982, July 1, 1982, or October 1, 1982; and (iii) that used a comparable PHA's Allowable Expense Level, shall apply the retrospective adjustment percentage provided by HUD.

(2) A PHA that entered operation during the PHA fiscal year beginning January 1, 1978, April 1, 1978, July 1, 1978, or October 1, 1978 but before the PHA fiscal year beginning January 1, 1982, April 1, 1982, July 1, 1982, or October 1, 1982, and that computed its own Allowable Expense Level for purposes of the PFS calculation, shall request the appropriate adjustment percentage from HUD, which will reflect the number of years the PHA has been in operation. This adjustment percentage shall be applied in accordance with this regulation.

(3) A PHA that starts operation during the PHA fiscal year beginning January 1, 1982, April 1, 1982, July 1, 1982, or October 1, 1982, or thereafter, shall not apply an adjustment since its beginning Allowable Expense Level will properly reflect the Local Inflation Factor.

(f) *Adjustment for FY 1989.* To reflect the increased costs incurred by PHAs to obtain required risk protection coverage (through private insurance, PHA sponsored insurance entities, or through self-insurance, as approved in accordance with the ACC), the calculation of AEL for the PHA's fiscal year beginning in 1989 will include an additional step following the determination made in accordance with paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section: the AEL per unit month derived in accordance with those paragraphs is to be adjusted by adding \$8.45. This adjustment is a one-time permanent adjustment made only in fiscal year 1989.

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§ 990.106 Transition funding for excessively high-cost PHAs.

If a PHA's Base Year Expense Level exceeds its Allowable Expense Level, computed as provided in § 990.105, for any budget year under PFS, the PHA may be eligible for Transition Funding. Transition Funding shall be an amount not to exceed the difference between the Base Year Expense Level and the Allowable Expense Level for the Requested Budget Year, multiplied by the number of Unit Months Available. HUD shall have the right to discontinue payment of all or part of the Transition Funding in the event HUD at any time determines that the PHA has not achieved a satisfactory level of management efficiency, or is not making efforts satisfactory to HUD to improve its management performance.

§ 990.107 Computation of utilities expense level.

(a) The PHA's Utilities Expense Level for the requested Budget Year shall be computed by multiplying the AUCL per unit per month for each utility, determined as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, by the projected utility rate determined as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Utilities rates.* (1) The current applicable rates, with consideration of

adjustments and pass-throughs, in effect at the time the Operating Budget is submitted to HUD will be used as the utilities rates for the Requested Budget Year, except that, when the appropriate utility commission has, prior to the date of submission of the Operating Budget to HUD, approved and published rate changes to be applicable during the Requested Budget Year, the future approved rates may be used as the utilities rates for the entire Requested Budget Year.

(2) If a PHA takes action, such as wellhead purchase of natural gas, or administrative appeals or legal action beyond normal public participation in rate-making proceedings to reduce the rate it pays for utilities (including water, fuel oil, electricity, and gas), then the PHA will be permitted to retain one-half of the cost savings during the first 12 months attributable to its actions. Upon determination that the action was cost-effective in the first year, the PHA may be permitted to retain one-half the annual cost savings, if the actions continue to be cost-effective. See also paragraph (e) of this section and § 990.110(c).

(c) *Computation of Allowable Utilities Consumption Level.* The Allowable Utilities Consumption Level (AUCL) used to compute the Utilities Expense Level of PHA for the Requested Budget Year generally will be based on the availability of consumption data. For project utilities where consumption data are available for the entire Rolling Base Period, the computation will be in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section. Where data are not available for the entire period, the computation will be in accordance with paragraph (c)(2) of this section, unless the project is a new project, in which case the computation will be in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section. For a project where the PHA has taken special energy conservation measures that qualify for special treatment in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section, the computation of the Allowable Utilities Consumption Level may be made in accordance with paragraph (c)(4) of this section. The AUCL for all of a PHA's projects is the sum of the amounts determined using

all of these subparagraphs, as appropriate.

(1) *Rolling Base Period System.* For project utilities with consumption data for the entire Rolling Base Period, the AUCL is the average amount consumed per unit per month during the Rolling Base Period adjusted in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section. The PHA shall determine the average amount of each of the utilities consumed during the Rolling Base period (i.e., the 36-month period ending 12 months prior to the first day of the Requested Budget Year). An example of a rolling base is as follows:

(i) *PHA fiscal years affected.* The Rolling Base Period shall be used to compute the AUCL submitted with the Operating Budgets for PHA Fiscal Years beginning January 1, 1983, April 1, 1983, July 1, 1983, October 1, 1983 and thereafter.

(ii) An example of a rolling base is as follows:

| PHA Fiscal Year (affected fiscal year) | | Rolling base period | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Beginning | Ending | Begins | Ends |
| 1-1-83 | 12-31-83 (1st year) | 1-1-79 | 12-31-81 |
| 1-1-84 | 12-31-84 (2nd year) ... | 1-1-80 | 12-31-82 |

(2) Alternative method where data is not available for the entire Rolling Base Period:

(i) If the PHA has not maintained or cannot recapture consumption data regarding a particular utility from its records for the whole Rolling Base Period mentioned in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, it shall submit consumption data for that utility for the last 24 months of its Rolling Base Period to the HUD Field Office for approval. If this is not possible, it shall submit consumption data for the last 12 months of its Rolling Base Period. The PHA also shall submit a written explanation of the reasons that data for the whole Rolling Base Period is unavailable.

(ii) In those cases where a PHA has not maintained or cannot recapture consumption data for a utility for the entire Rolling Base Period, comparable consumption for the greatest of either 36, 24, or 12 months, as needed, shall be used for the utility for which the data is lacking. The comparable consumption shall be estimated based upon the

consumption experienced during the Rolling Base Period of comparable project(s) with comparable utility delivery systems and occupancy. The use of actual and comparable consumption by each PHA, other than those PHAs defined as New Projects in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, will be determined by the availability of complete data for the entire 36-month Rolling Base Period. Appropriate utility consumption records, satisfactory to HUD, shall be developed and maintained by all PHAs so that a 36-month rolling average utility consumption per unit per month under paragraph (c)(1) of this section can be determined.

(iii) If a PHA cannot develop the consumption data for the Rolling Base Period or for 12 or 24 months of the Rolling Base Period, either from its own project(s) data, or by using comparable consumption data the actual per unit per month (PUM) utility expenses stated in paragraph (d) of this section shall be used as the Utilities Expense Level.

(3) *Computation of Allowable Utilities Consumption Levels for New Projects.* (i) A New Project, for the purpose of establishing the Rolling Base Period and the Utilities Expense Level, is defined as either: (A) A project which had not been in operation during at least 12 months of the Rolling Base Period, or a project which enters management after the Rolling Base Period and prior to the end of the Requested Budget Year, or (B) a project which during or after the Rolling Base Period, has experienced conversion from one energy source to another; interruptable service; deprogrammed units; a switch from tenant-purchased to PHA-supplied utilities; or a switch from PHA-supplied to tenant-purchased utilities.

(ii) The actual consumption for New Projects shall be determined so as not to distort the Rolling Base Period in accordance with a method prescribed by HUD.

(4) *Freezing the Allowable Utilities Consumption Level.* (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section, if a PHA undertakes energy conservation measures that are approved by HUD under paragraph (f) of this section, the Allowable Utilities Consumption Level for the project and the utilities involved may

be frozen during the contract period. Before the AUCL is frozen, it must be adjusted to reflect any energy savings resulting from the use of any HUD funding. The AUCL is then frozen at the level calculated for the year during which the conservation measures initially will be implemented, as determined in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section.

(ii) If the AUCL is frozen during the contract period, the annual three-year rolling base procedures for computing the AUCL shall be reactivated after the PHA satisfies the conditions of the contract. The three years of consumption data to be used in calculating the AUCL after the end of the contract period will be as follows:

(A) *First year:* The energy consumption during the year before the year in which the contract ended and the energy consumption for each of the two years before installation of the energy conservation improvements;

(B) *Second year:* The energy consumption during the year the contract ended, energy consumption during the year before the contract ended, and energy consumption during the year before installation of the energy conservation improvements;

(C) *Third year:* The energy consumption during the year after the contract ended, energy consumption during the year the contract ended, and energy consumption during the year before the contract ended.

(d) *Utilities expense level where consumption data for the full Rolling Base Period is unavailable.* If a PHA does not obtain the consumption data for the entire Rolling Base Period, or for 12 or 24 months of the Rolling Base Period, either for its own project(s) or by using comparable consumption data as required in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, it shall request HUD Field Office approval to use actual PUM utility expenses. These expenses shall exclude Utilities Labor and Other Utilities Expenses. The actual PUM utility expenses shall be taken from the year-end Statement of Operating Receipts and Expenditures, Form HUD-52599, (Office of Management and Budget approval number 2505-0240) prepared for the PHA fiscal year which ended 12 months prior to the beginning of the

PHA Requested Budget Year (e.g., for a PHA fiscal year beginning January 1, 1983, the PHA would use data from the fiscal year ended December 31, 1981). Subsequent adjustments will not be approved for a budget year for which the utility expense level is established based upon actual PUM utility expenses.

(e) *Adjustments.* PHAs shall request adjustments of Utilities Expense Levels in accordance with § 990.110(c), which requires an adjustment based upon a comparison between actual experience and estimates of consumption and of utility rates.

(f) *Incentives for energy conservation improvements.* If a PHA undertakes energy conservation measures (including those covering water, fuel oil, electricity, and gas) that are financed by an entity other than the Secretary, such as physical improvements financed by a loan from a utility or governmental entity, management of costs under a performance contract, or a shared savings agreement with a private energy service company, the PHA may qualify for one of the two possible incentives under this part. For a PHA to qualify for these incentives, HUD approval must be obtained. Approval will be based upon a determination that payments under the contract can be funded from the reasonably anticipated energy cost savings, and the contract period does not exceed 12 years.

(1) If the contract allows the PHA's payments to be dependent on the cost savings it realizes, the PHA must use at least 50 percent of the cost savings to pay the contractor. With this type of contract, the PHA may take advantage of a frozen AUCL under paragraph (c)(4) of this section, and it may use the full amount of the cost savings, as described in § 990.110(c)(2)(ii).

(2) If the contract does not allow the PHA's payments to be dependent on the cost savings it realizes, then the AUCL will continue to be calculated in accordance with paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(3) of this section, as appropriate; the PHA will be able to retain part of the cost savings, in accordance with § 990.110(c)(2)(i); and the PHA will qualify for additional operating subsidy eligibility (above the amount based on the allowable expense level)

to cover the cost of amortizing the improvement loan during the term of the contract, in accordance with § 990.110(e).

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§ 990.108 Other costs.

(a) *Cost of independent audits.* (1) Eligibility to receive operating subsidy for independent audits is considered separately from the PFS. However, the PHA shall not request, nor will HUD approve, an operating subsidy for the cost of an independent audit if the audit has already been funded by subsidy in a prior year. The PHA's estimate of cost of the independent audit is subject to adjustment by HUD. If the PHA requires assistance in determining the amount of cost to be estimated, the HUD Field Office should be contacted.

(2) A PHA that is required by the Single Audit Act (see 24 CFR part 44) to conduct a regular independent audit may receive operating subsidy to cover the cost of the audit. The estimated cost of an independent audit, applicable to the operations of PHA-owned rental housing, is not included in the Allowable Expense Level, but it is allowed in full in computing the amount of operating subsidy under § 990.104, above.

(3) A PHA that is exempt from the audit requirements under the Single Audit Act (24 CFR part 44) may receive operating subsidy to offset the cost of an independent audit chargeable to operations (after the End of the Initial Operating Period) if the PHA chooses to have an audit.

(b)(1) Costs attributable to units approved for deprogramming and vacant may be eligible for inclusion, but must be limited to the minimum services and protection necessary to protect and preserve the units until the units are deprogrammed. Costs attributable to units temporarily unavailable for